(iii) non-transfer of technology, even though contracted and paid for.

For the same reasons, the Government has also requested the Central Vigilance Commission for instituting a probe by the CBI or any other appropriate agency into the following allegations:

(i) involvement of agents / middlemen in major Defence deals after imposition of ban on involvement of agents,

(ii) allegations made during the course of Short Duration Discussion in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd December 1999 regarding irregularities in Defence procurements, and

(iii) allegations made in the writ petition filed by a serving Rear Admiral in the Delhi High Court.

The Ministry of Defence is extending all possible co-operation to the CVC and the C and AG for expeditious completion of Review / Special Audit / investigations by them.

Probe into Defence deals

603. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered any investigations on the Defence purchases for the last 15 years (since 1985);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms of reference, if any; and

(d) whether it. includes the "purchase of Russian Tanks and spare parts of the Bofors Gun?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES):

(a) to (d) With a view to ensure absolute probity in defence procurements and in deference to the suggestions made by the Hon'ble Members of Parliament, the Government has requested the C&AG to carry out a Review / Special Audit of the allegations pertaining to:

(i) excessively and wrongly bought spares that are reportedly lying as junk in various depots.

(ii) alleged irregularities in emergency procurements for Kargil operations, and

(iii) non-transfer of technology, even though contracted and paid for.

For the same reasons, the Government has also requested the Central Vigilance Commission for instituting a probe by the CBI or any other appropriate agency into the following allegations:

(i) involvement of agents / middlemen in major Defence deals after imposition of ban on involvement of agents,

(ii) allegations made during the course of Short Duration Discussion in the Rajya Sabha on 23rd December 1999 regarding irregularities in Defence procurements, and

(iii) allegations made in the writ petition filed by a serving Rear Admiral in the Delhi High Court.

CBI Enquiry against Naval Officer

604. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to Refer to Unstarred Question No. 798 answered in Rajya Sabha on 3rd March, 1999 and state:

(a) whether CBI was enquiring into the complaints against a Rear Admiral since the NHQ was not forthcoming in helping Government to investigate the complaints',

(b) whether it is a fact, that a Committee of the Defence Ministry formed at the instance of the RM had made relevant enquiries on 18th May, 1998 and 4«h June, 1998 and cleared the RADM; and

(c) if so, the details and the reasons for commissioning the CBI?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In reply to die Unstarred Question No.798 to Rajya Sabbha on 3.3.1999 it had been stated that the Ministry of Defence had referred the matter for CBI enquiry. This reference to the CBI had been made on 4.3.1998.

On 4.5.1998, a Committee-of Officers was constituted by the Raksha Mantri consisting of the representatives of Ministry of Defence (Finance) and of Naval HQrs. The Committee held two meetings on 15.5.1998 and 4.6.1998. The Committee came to the conclusion that the allegations against the officer could not be established from the files. The Committee also noted that there were some allegations which did not lend themselves to being proved or disproved, from a perusal of the files.